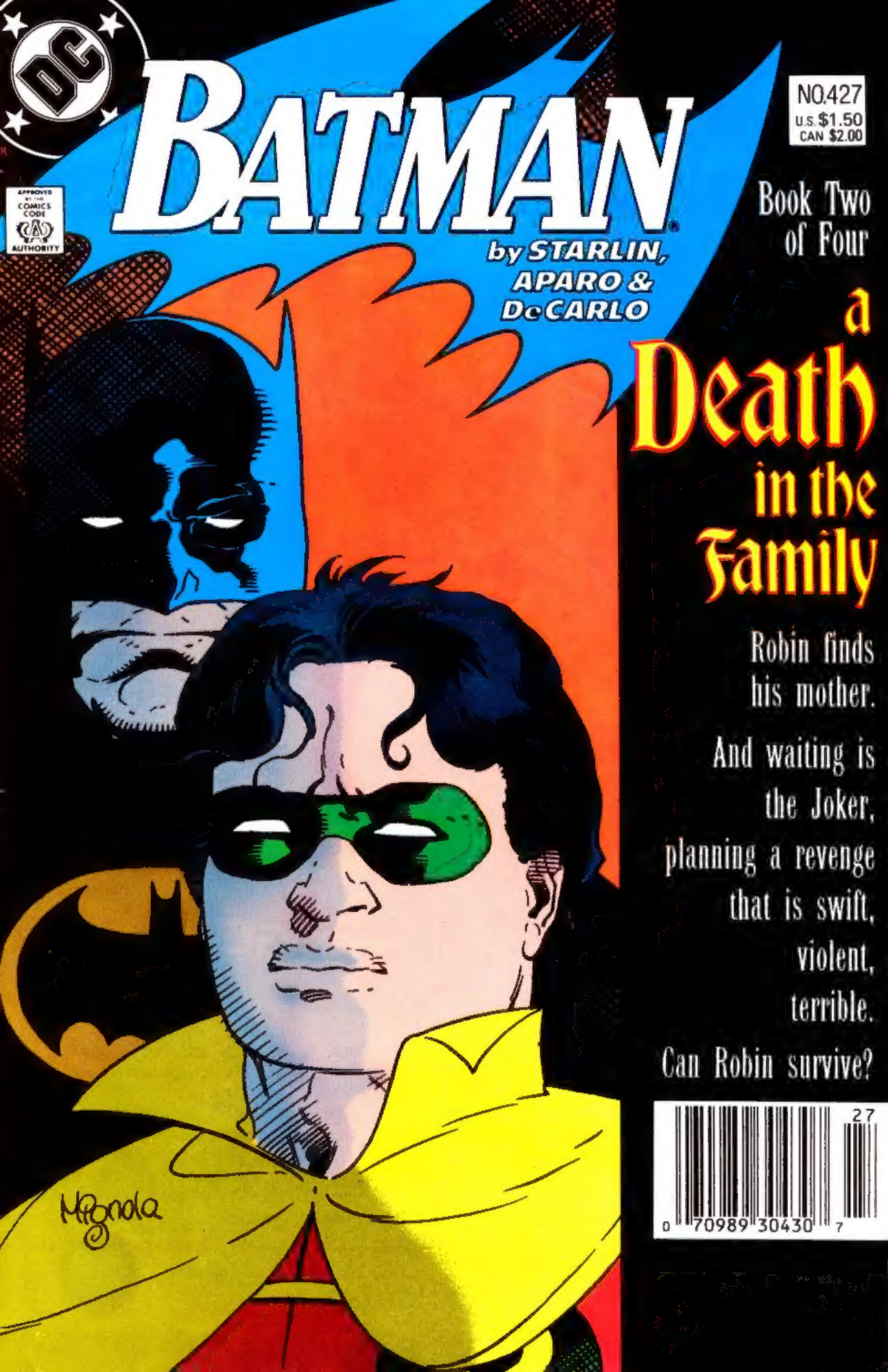
DC
BATMAN
by STARLIN, APARO & DeCARLO
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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Book Two of Four
a Death in the Family
Robin finds his mother.
And waiting is the Joker, planning a revenge that is swift, violent, terrible.
Can Robin survive?
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A DEATH in the FAMILY

CHAPTER 3

LEBANON, THE BEKAA VALLEY, THE VERY HEARTLAND OF SHI-ITE TERRORIST ACTIVITY.
ROBIN AND I ARE HERE ON A MISSION, A VERY PERSONAL MISSION.
THIS SENTRY IS GOING TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL.

JIM STARLIN writer · JIM APARO penciller · MIKE DECARLO inker · JOHN COSTANZA letterer · ADRIENNE ROY colorist · DAN RASPLER asst. editor · DENNY O'NEIL editor

G-3628

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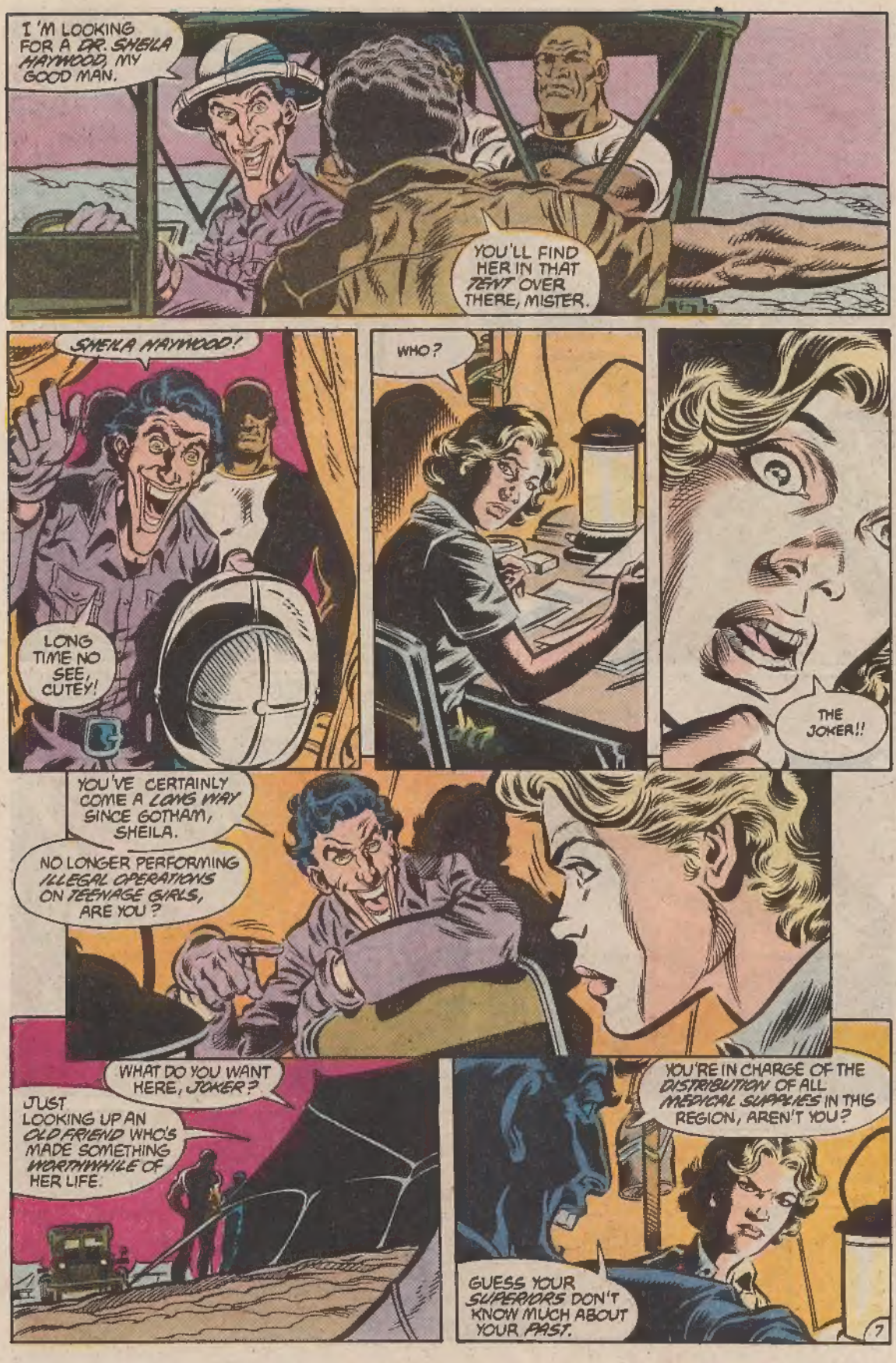
HE'S JUST THE RIGHT SIZE.
ONE OF MY DRUG-TIPPED DARTS WILL DO THE JOB NICELY.
IT'LL PUT HIM OUT FOR AT LEAST SIX HOURS.
THIS IS A TRICKY BUSINESS WE'RE INVOLVED IN, DEALING WITH COLD-BLOODED TERRORISTS.
EACH MOVE MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED. DEATH IS ONLY A MOMENT'S CARELESSNESS AWAY.
QUICKLY, GET HIM UNDRESSED.
WISH I COULD HAVE HANDLED THIS JOB WITHOUT JASON TAGGING ALONG.
BUT HE'S THE REASON WE'RE HERE.
MY HOPE IS THAT THIS MISSION WILL QUIET THE ANGRY FIRES THAT BURN WITHIN HIM.
HE STARTED GETTING OUT OF LINE BACK IN GOTHAM, TAKING RECKLESS CHANCES.
I QUICKLY REALIZED, THE PROBLEM WAS THAT HE'D NOT YET ADJUSTED TO THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS.
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO PUT JASON ON INACTIVE DUTY, TEMPORARILY.
I WANTED TO GIVE THE BOY TIME TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HIS GRIEF. OF COURSE, JASON DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

WHILE WANDERING AROUND TOWN, TRYING TO WORK OFF HIS ANGER AT THE PERCEIVED REJECTION, JASON RAN INTO A MRS. WALKER, A FRIEND OF HIS PARENTS.
SHE GAVE HIM A BOX, CONTAINING SOME OF HIS FAMILY'S PERSONAL PAPERS.
THE BOX CONTAINED A BOMBSHELL. HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
THAT'S WHEN HE DISCOVERED HIS REAL MOTHER WASN'T CATHERINE TODD. THE UNPRONOUNCEABLE NAME, LISTED UNDER MOTHER, STARTED WITH AN "S."
FROM HIS FATHER'S ADDRESS BOOK HE FOUND THREE WOMEN, WHOSE FIRST NAMES STARTED WITH AN "S"
HE USED THE BATCAVE'S COMPUTER TO LOCATE THEM.
THERE WAS SHARMIN ROSEN, WHO'D EMIGRATED AND BECAME AN ISRAELI SECRET AGENT.
REPORTS HAD IT THAT SHIVA HOOSAN IS A FREELANCE MERCENARY, CURRENTLY OPERATING IN BEIRUT.
DR. SHEILA HAYWOOD WAS FOUND IN ETHIOPIA, WORKING ON A FAMINE RELIEF PROJECT.
JASON RAN AWAY FROM HOME, TO DISCOVER WHICH OF THESE WOMEN IS HIS REAL MOTHER.
I STUMBLED UPON HIS QUEST WHILE TRACKING THE JOKER TO LEBANON.
THAT MADMAN HAD PLANNED TO SELL A CRUISE MISSILE TO A GROUP OF TERRORISTS.
WE MANAGED TO SPOIL THE JOKER'S NUCLEAR FIRESALE AND SAVE SHARMIN ROSEN'S LIFE IN THE BARGAIN.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT THE WAY WE HOPED.
THE JOKER ESCAPED...
... AND IT TURNED OUT SHARMIN ROSEN NEVER HAD ANY CHILDREN.
I DECIDED IT'D BE BEST IF I STUCK AROUND TO HELP JASON IN HIS SEARCH...
...ESPECIALLY SEEING AS HOW THE NEXT LADY ON HIS LIST WAS THE MERCENARY, SHIVA HOOSAN.
3

TO SAVE TIME, I CALLED MY C.I.A. CONTACT, RALPH BUNDY.
WITHIN HOURS HE WAS ABLE TO TELL US WHERE SHIVA WOOSAN COULD BE FOUND.
IMAGINE MY DELIGHT FINDING THAT MS. WOOSAN WAS STAYING AT MY FAVORITE BEIRUT DIVE, THE MOTEL BLU.
HOTEL BLU
BUT WHEN WE ASKED FOR HER AT THE RECEPTION DESK...
(SHIVA WOOSAN?)
(HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?)*
*Translated from Farsi.
(MISS WOOSAN WAS STANDING RIGHT HERE!)
BLU
(ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS CAR PULLED UP!)
("FOUR MEN WITH MACHINEGUNS JUMPED OUT!")
("THEY KIDNAPPED MISS WOOSAN!")
(UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH THINGS ARE NOT UNCOMMON IN BEIRUT.)
STEADY, JASON. WE'LL FIND HER.
IN FACT, I KNOW JUST WHERE TO LOOK.
4

WHEN I WAS TRACKING DOWN THE JOKER, I'D DISCOVERED THAT BEIRUT'S CRIMINAL ELEMENT WAS JUST AS EAGER TO TALK TO MY BATMAN PERSONA AS THEIR GOTHAM COUNTER-PARTS ALWAYS ARE.
THE TRICK IS IN THE WAY YOU COUCH THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERED.
<YOU CAN FIND THEM AT FASHAR PASS IN THE BEKAA' VALLEY!>
<I WILL GLADLY DRAW YOU A MAP!>
5

AND THAT'S HOW WE CAME TO BE HERE, ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE SHIVA WOOSAN FROM HER RADICAL SHI-ITE CAPTORS.
WE GOT COMPANY COMING.
TERRIFIC. HE LOOKS TO BE JUST ABOUT YOUR SIZE.
〈RAMÍN?〉
〈RAMÍN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?〉
〈FELL DOWN.〉
〈HOW DID YOU DO THAT?〉
〈LIKE THIS!〉
HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
I'LL GATHER UP THEIR WEAPONS.
A FAMINE RELIEF CAMP JUST OUTSIDE MAGDALA, ETHIOPIA.
6

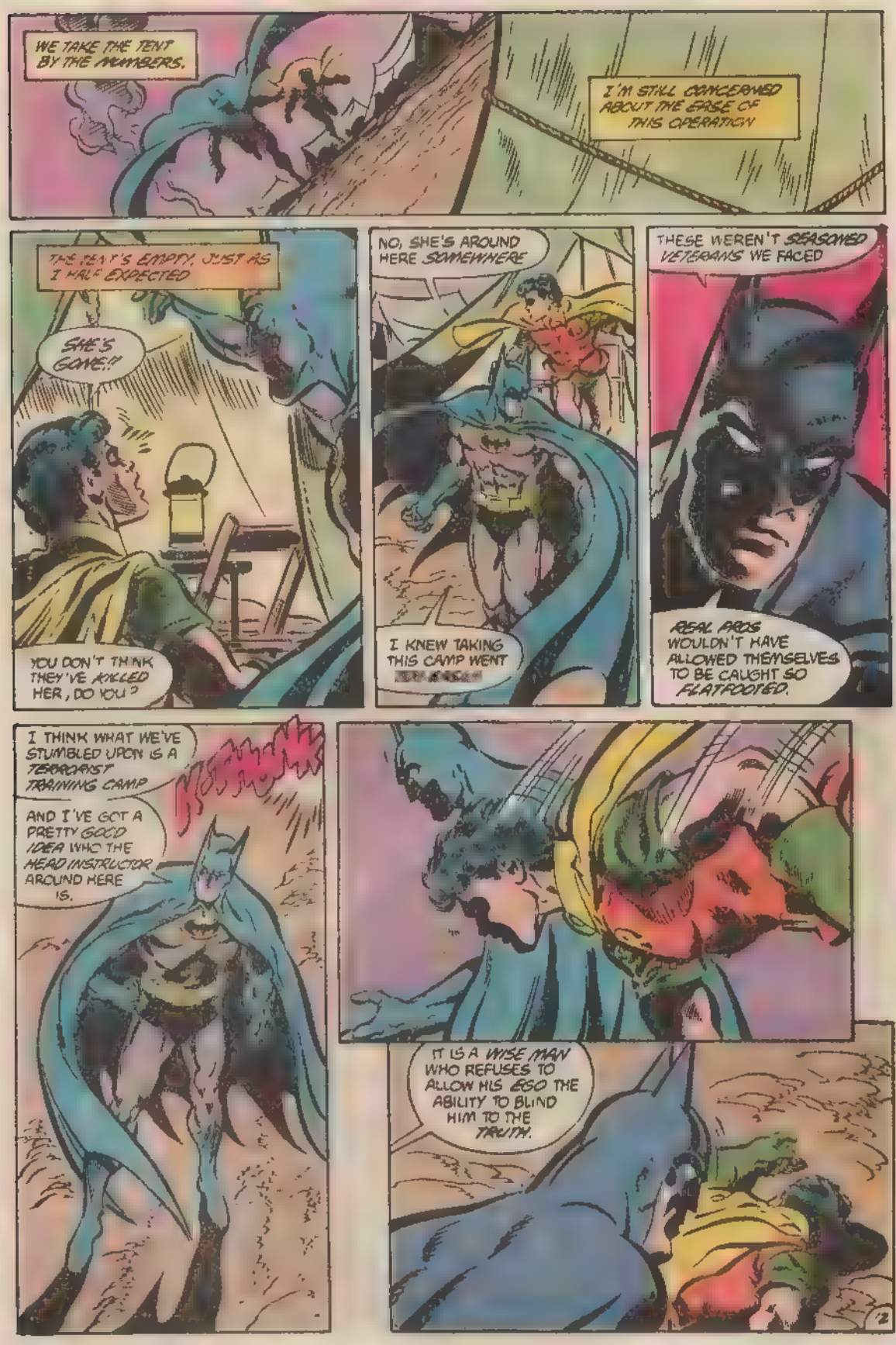

I'M LOOKING FOR A DR. SHEILA HAYWOOD, MY GOOD MAN.
YOU'LL FIND HER IN THAT TENT OVER THERE, MISTER.
SHEILA HAYWOOD!
LONG TIME NO SEE, CUTEY!
WHO?
THE JOKER!!
YOU'VE CERTAINLY COME A LONG WAY SINCE GOTHAM, SHEILA.
NO LONGER PERFORMING ILLEGAL OPERATIONS ON TEENAGE GIRLS, ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, JOKER?
JUST LOOKING UP AN OLD FRIEND WHO'S MADE SOMETHING WORTHWHILE OF HER LIFE.
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN THIS REGION, AREN'T YOU?
GUESS YOUR SUPERIORS DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR PAST.
7

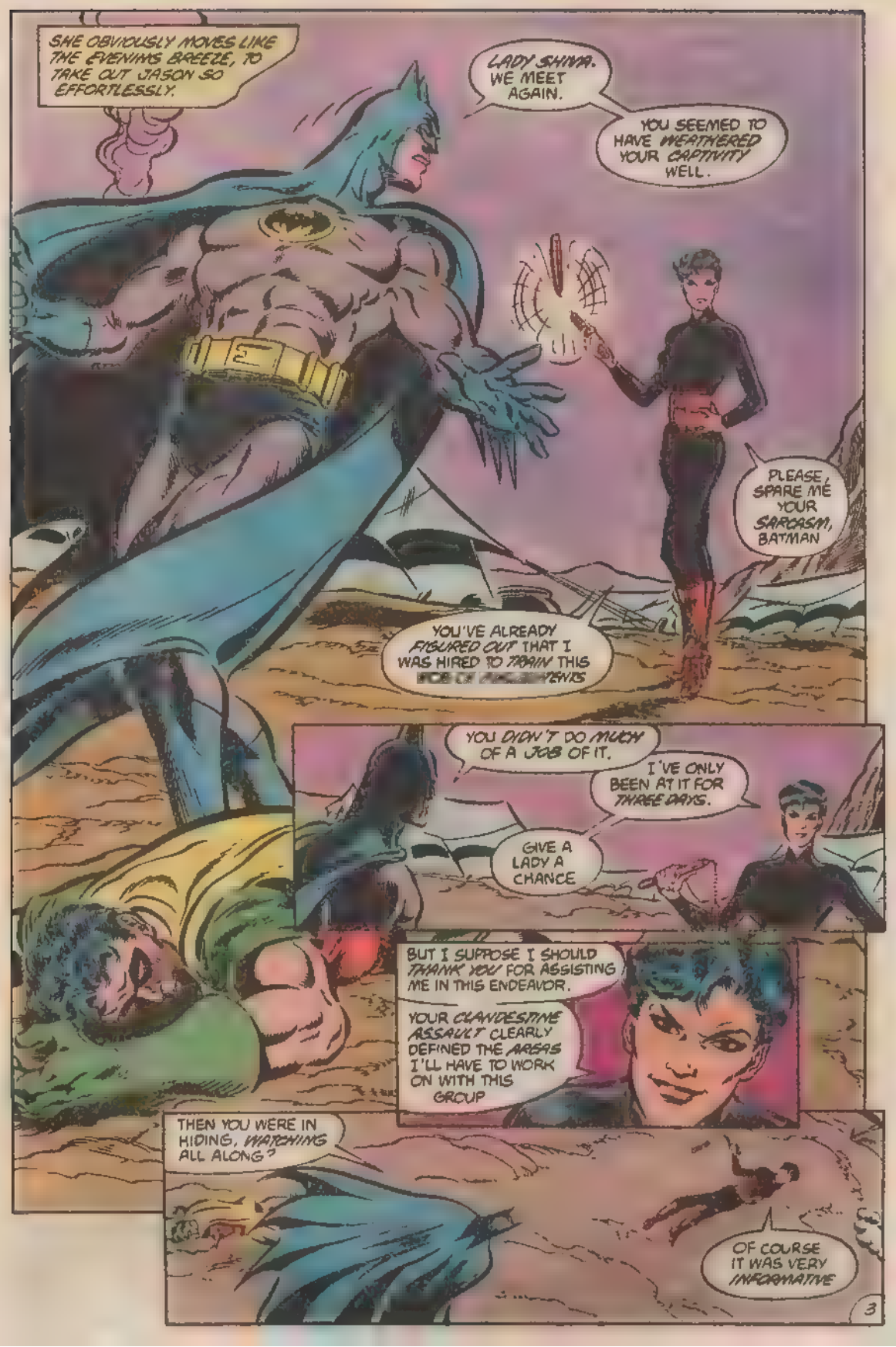
LISTEN, JOKER, THAT'S ALL BEHIND ME! I'VE STARTED A NEW LIFE OUT HERE!
WHICH WILL COME TO A DISGRACEFUL END IF CERTAIN PAST INDISCRETIONS CAME TO LIGHT...
SO IT'S BLACKMAIL, IS IT?
AFRAID SO, DEARIE, TIMES HAVE BEEN TOUGH ON ME OF LATE.
BUT A HALF DOZEN TRUCK-LOADS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES WILL GET ME BACK ON MY FEET.
I'VE ALREADY GOT BLACKMARKET CUSTOMERS LINED UP.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE BEEN ROUGH. THE GREAT JOKER REDUCED TO HIJACKING TRUCKS.
JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF REAGANOMICS, THAT'S ME.
UNFORTUNATELY, I LIVE IN A WORLD THAT RUNS ON MONEY.
TO STAY IN THE GAME, I NEED OODLES OF CASH.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET THAT STAKE, SHEILA DEAR.
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL PULL THE PLUG ON THE GOOD THING YOU'VE GOT HERE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT GIVING ME MUCH SAY IN THE MATTER, ARE YOU?
NONE WHAT-SO-EVER...
I COUNT TWENTY MEN IN THE CAMP...
... ALL ARMED TO THE TEETH.
8

WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THEM ALL OUT BEFORE ANYONE REALIZES THERE'S AN ENEMY AMIDST THEIR NUMBERS.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE EVERY OUNCE OF STEALTH WE POSSESS TO PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED.
WAK
WAM
PSSST!
HUH?
(RAMÍN, IS THAT YOU?)
KER-THACK
PART OF ME IS BOTHERED BY HOW SMOOTHLY THIS IS ALL GOING.
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN IT GETS TOO EASY.
IT MAKES ME NERVOUS, WAITING FOR THAT OTHER SHOE TO DROP.
9

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS IN HERE?
LET'S CHECK AND FIND OUT.
WOW! ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES HERE TO LEVEL A MAJOR CITY.
EXPLOSIVES
WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM IN OUR WAY OUT OF HERE
(KABEL, RAMIN, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON GUARD DUTY?)
YES, DEFINITELY MUCH TOO EASY
10

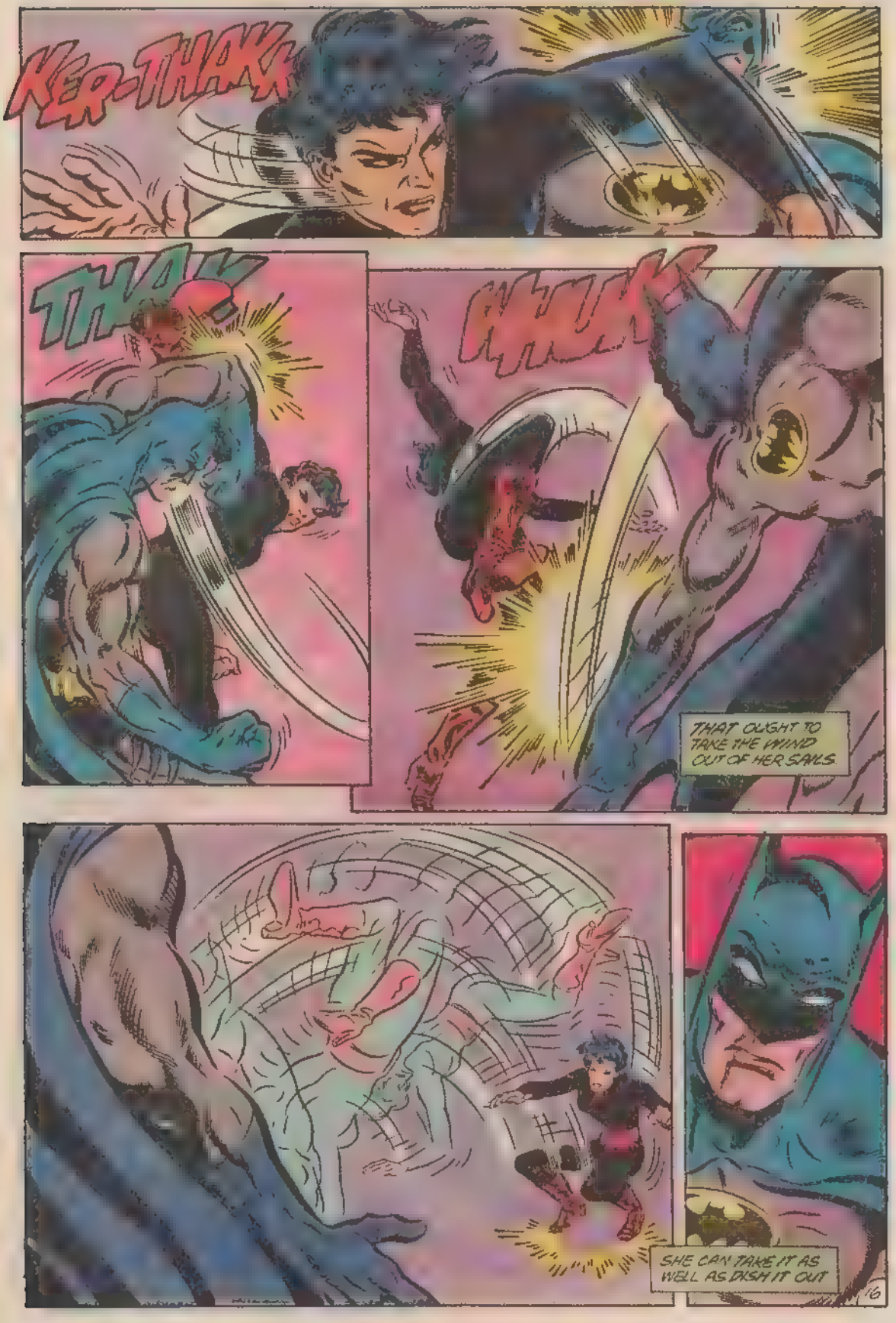
I THINK HE'S THE LAST ONE.
DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE.
(GREETINGS, ABDÜL.)
(MY NAME'S NOT ABDÜL. WHO ARE YOU?)
(JUST SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW WHERE SHIVA WOOSAN IS.)
(AND YOU EXPECT ME TO TELL YOU?)
(YOU BETTER 'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T...)
(...THAT MAN STANDING BEHIND YOU, WITH A MACHINEGUN, WILL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT)
(SHE'S IN THE TENT IN THE CENTER OF THE CAMP...)
THANKS.
WHOOSH
FIGURE ANYONE'S IN THERE WITH HER?
LET'S PLAY IT LIKE THERE IS.
WHY DON'T WE LOSE THESE DUDS WHILE WE'RE AT IT?
OKAY, I DON'T SEE ANY FURTHER NEED FOR THESE DISGUISES
TERRIFIC. I THINK I HAVE COMPANY IN HERE WITH ME


WE TAKE THE TENT BY THE NUMBERS.
I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE EASE OF THIS OPERATION
THE TENT'S EMPTY, JUST AS I HALF EXPECTED
SHE'S GONE!!
YOU DON'T THINK THEY'VE KILLED HER, DO YOU?
NO, SHE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE
I KNEW TAKING THIS CAMP WENT [redacted]
THESE WEREN'T SEASONED VETERANS WE FACED
REAL PROS WOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE CAUGHT SO FLATFOOTED.
I THINK WHAT WE'VE STUMBLED UPON IS A TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP
KATHUNK
AND I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHO THE HEAD INSTRUCTOR AROUND HERE IS.
IT IS A WISE MAN WHO REFUSES TO ALLOW HIS EGO THE ABILITY TO BLIND HIM TO THE TRUTH.
2

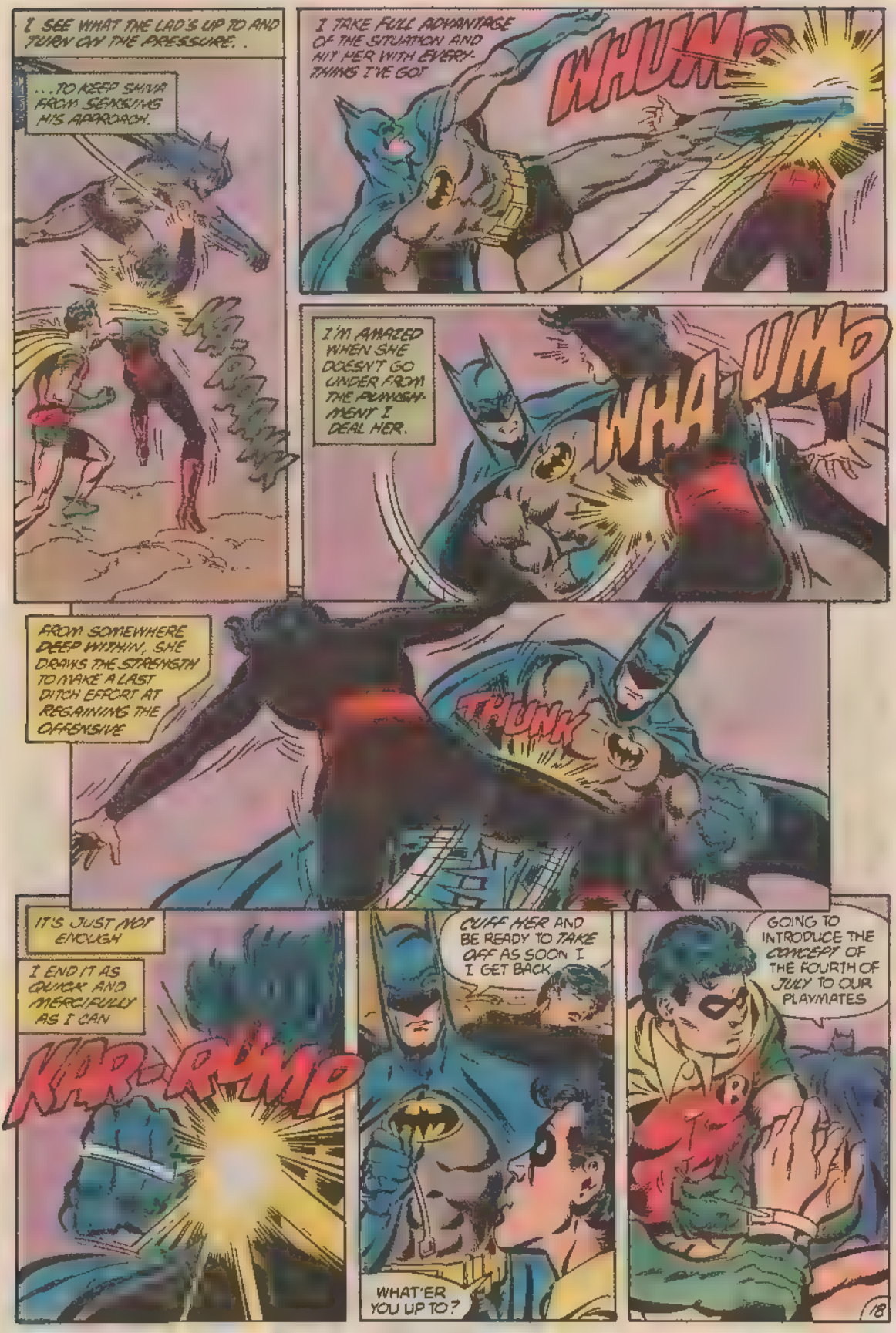

SHE OBVIOUSLY MOVES LIKE THE EVENING'S BREEZE, TO TAKE OUT JASON SO EFFORTLESSLY.
LADY SHIVA. WE MEET AGAIN.
YOU SEEMED TO HAVE WEATHERED YOUR CAPTIVITY WELL.
PLEASE, SPARE ME YOUR SARCASM, BATMAN
YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT THAT I WAS HIRED TO TRAIN THIS [illegible]
YOU DIDN'T DO MUCH OF A JOB OF IT.
I'VE ONLY BEEN AT IT FOR THREE DAYS.
GIVE A LADY A CHANCE
BUT I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING ME IN THIS ENDEAVOR.
YOUR CLANDESTINE ASSAULT CLEARLY DEFINED THE AREAS I'LL HAVE TO WORK ON WITH THIS GROUP
THEN YOU WERE IN HIDING, WATCHING ALL ALONG?
OF COURSE IT WAS VERY INFORMATIVE
3

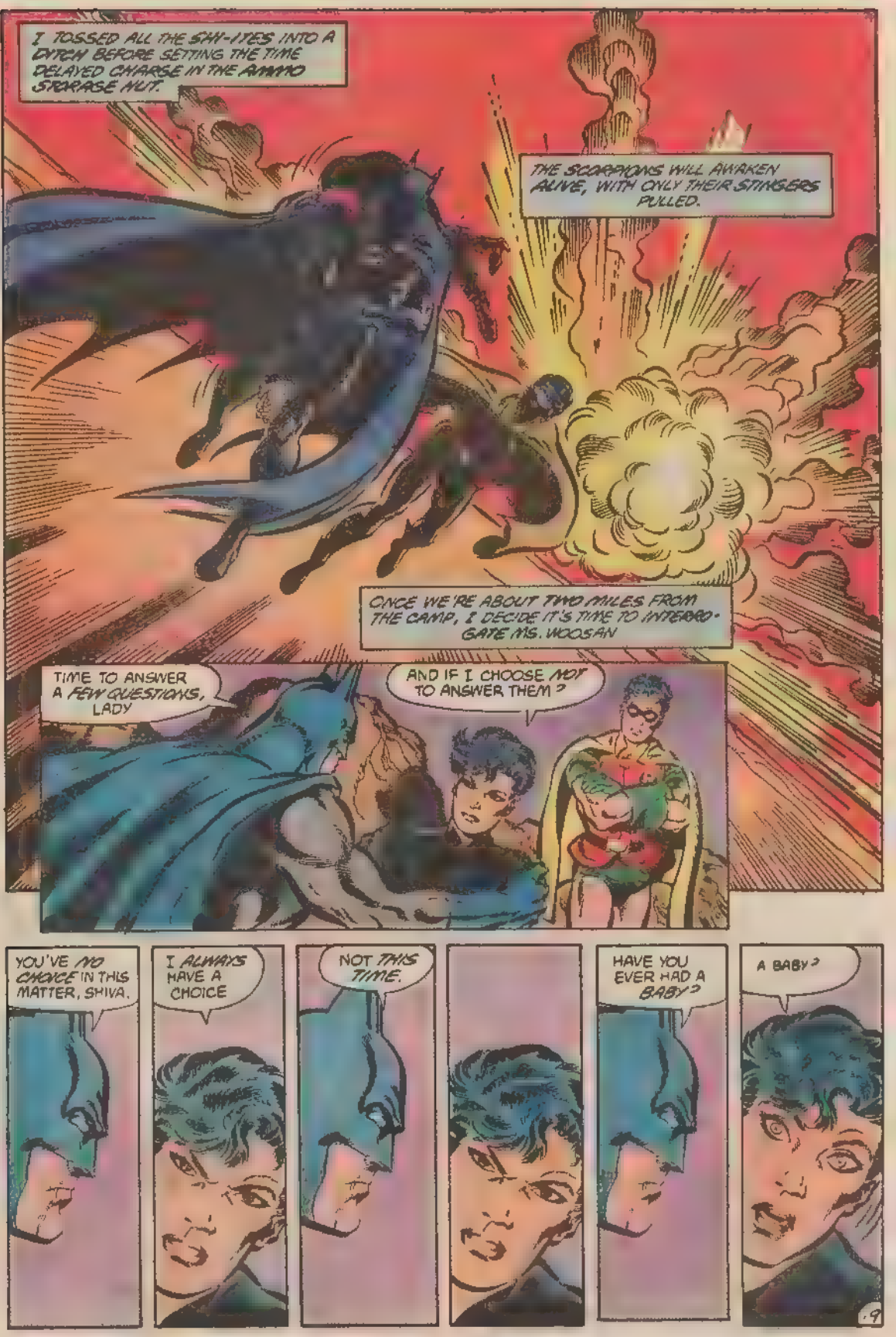
YOU WEREN'T KILLING MY PUPILS OFF, SO I SAW NO REASON TO INTERFERE...
...UNTIL NOW!
LISTEN WE DIDN'T COME HERE LOOKING FOR A SCRAP
ROBIN AND I JUST WANT TO ASK A QUESTION OR TWO
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE WHYS OF YOUR VISIT
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE IS ENOUGH FOR ME
WHEN LAST WE MET, I WAS NOT ABLE TO PUT YOUR PROWESS TO A PROPER TEST.
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
A CHANCE TO TEST ONE'S SKILLS AGAINST SUCH TALENTS IS INDEED RARE
IT'S A LOT LIKE BEING A GUNFIGHTER IN THE OLD WEST
I CAN'T LET AN OPPORTUNITY AS GOLDEN AS THIS PASS BY
WHEN YOU'RE THE BEST, EVERY JERK AND HIS SISTER WANTS A CRACK AT YOUR TITLE.
SORRY, LADY I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS.
KER-THUNK
14

SHE'S BETTER THAN GOOD.
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THAT SIDE KICK COMING.
SHIVA'S EASILY GOT THE HITTING POWER OF RA'S AL GHUL AND THE SPEED AND AGILITY OF THE SENSEI.
I SUDDENLY REALIZE I'VE GOT A REAL FIGHT ON MY HANDS
IF I DON'T START TAKING THIS LADY SERIOUSLY, I COULD END UP DEAD.
GETTING RID OF THESE DISTRACTING NUNCHAKAS SHOULD HELP
THER-ACKK!
16


KER-THAK
THAK
THUK
THAT OUGHT TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF HER SAILS.
SHE CAN TAKE IT AS WELL AS DISH IT OUT

AS HARD TO BELIEVE AS IT SEEMS, THIS SHIVA WOOSAN APPEARS TO BE MY EQUAL IN THE MARTIAL ARTS.
MY ONLY HOPE IS TO COME IN CLOSE AND SEE IF I CAN OUT-MUSCLE HER
IT'S GOING TO BE A REAL WORKOUT
OOOOOOOOOH
WHAT HIT ME?
WHAT'S THIS?
BATMAN AND SHIVA FIGHTING?
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER!
GOTTA GET INTO THIS, PUT AN END TO IT...
BUT WHO DO I HELP?
BRUCE THE MAN WHO TOOK ME OFF THE STREETS AND GAVE ME A HOME?
OR SHIVA, THE WOMAN WHO MIGHT BE MY MOTHER?

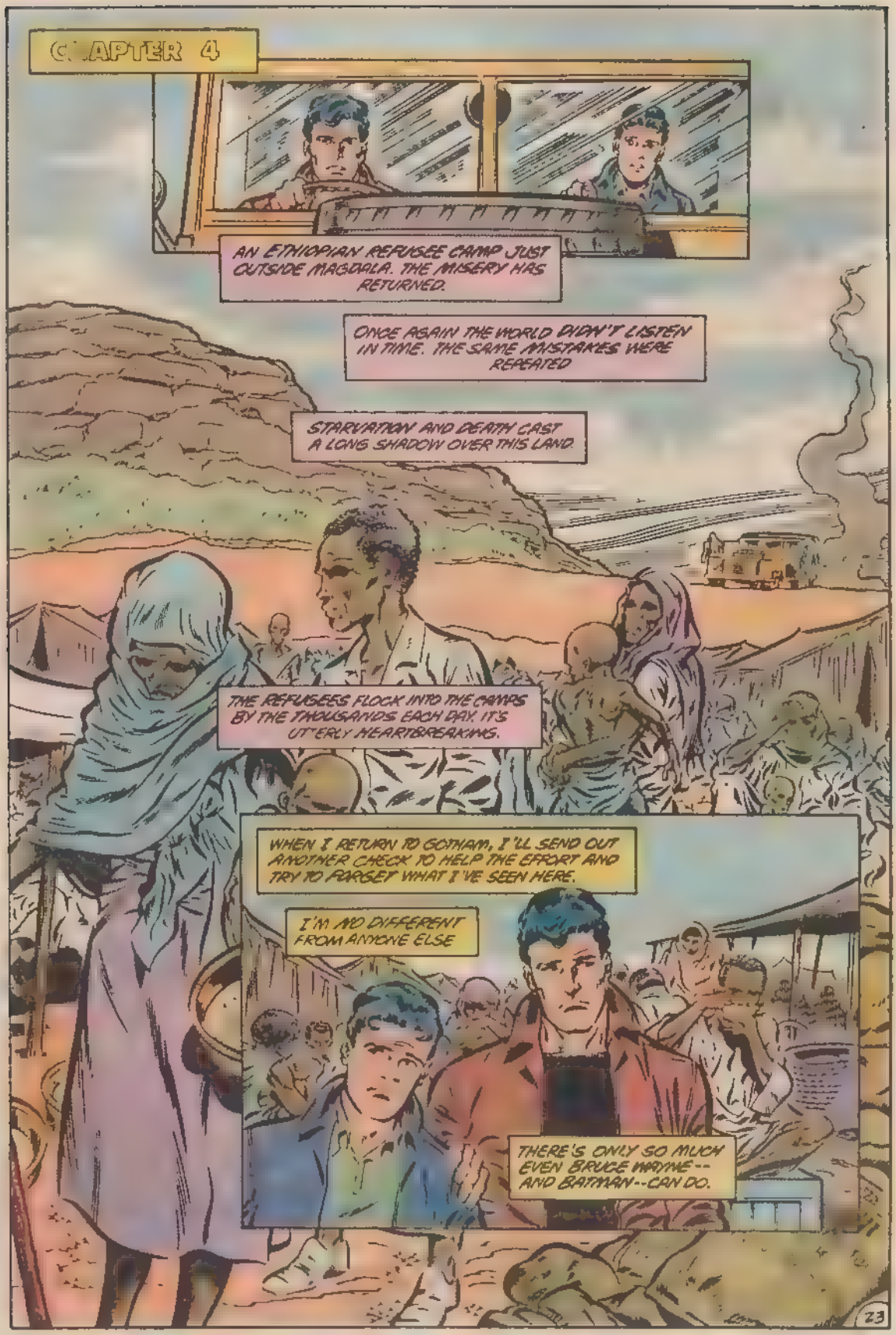

I SEE WHAT THE LAD'S UP TO AND TURN ON THE PRESSURE. .
. . TO KEEP SHIVA FROM SENSING HIS APPROACH.
I TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND HIT HER WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT
WHUM
I'M AMAZED WHEN SHE DOESN'T GO UNDER FROM THE PUNISH-MENT I DEAL HER.
WHA
UMP
FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN, SHE DRAWS THE STRENGTH TO MAKE A LAST DITCH EFFORT AT REGAINING THE OFFENSIVE
THUNK
IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH
I END IT AS QUICK AND MERCIFULLY AS I CAN
KAR-RUMP
CUFF HER AND BE READY TO TAKE OFF AS SOON I I GET BACK
WHAT'ER YOU UP TO?
GOING TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF THE FOURTH OF JULY TO OUR PLAYMATES
18


I TOSSED ALL THE SHY-ITES INTO A DITCH BEFORE SETTING THE TIME DELAYED CHARGE IN THE AMMO STORAGE HUT.
THE SCORPIONS WILL AWAKEN ALIVE, WITH ONLY THEIR STINGERS PULLED.
ONCE WE'RE ABOUT TWO MILES FROM THE CAMP, I DECIDE IT'S TIME TO INTERROGATE MS. WOOSAN
TIME TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS, LADY
AND IF I CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER THEM?
YOU'VE NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER, SHIVA.
I ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE
NOT THIS TIME.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A BABY?
A BABY?
9

CERTAINLY. I'VE HAD DOZENS OF BABIES!!
I'VE DROPPED LITTERS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE!!
KNOWING WHO WE'D BE DEALING WITH, I FORESAW FACING A CERTAIN LACK OF COOPERATION
SO I BROUGHT ALONG A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
SODIUM PENTOTHAL-- TRUTH SERUM
EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING IS REVOLTED BY THE THOUGHT OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO. IT WON'T STOP ME, THOUGH
20

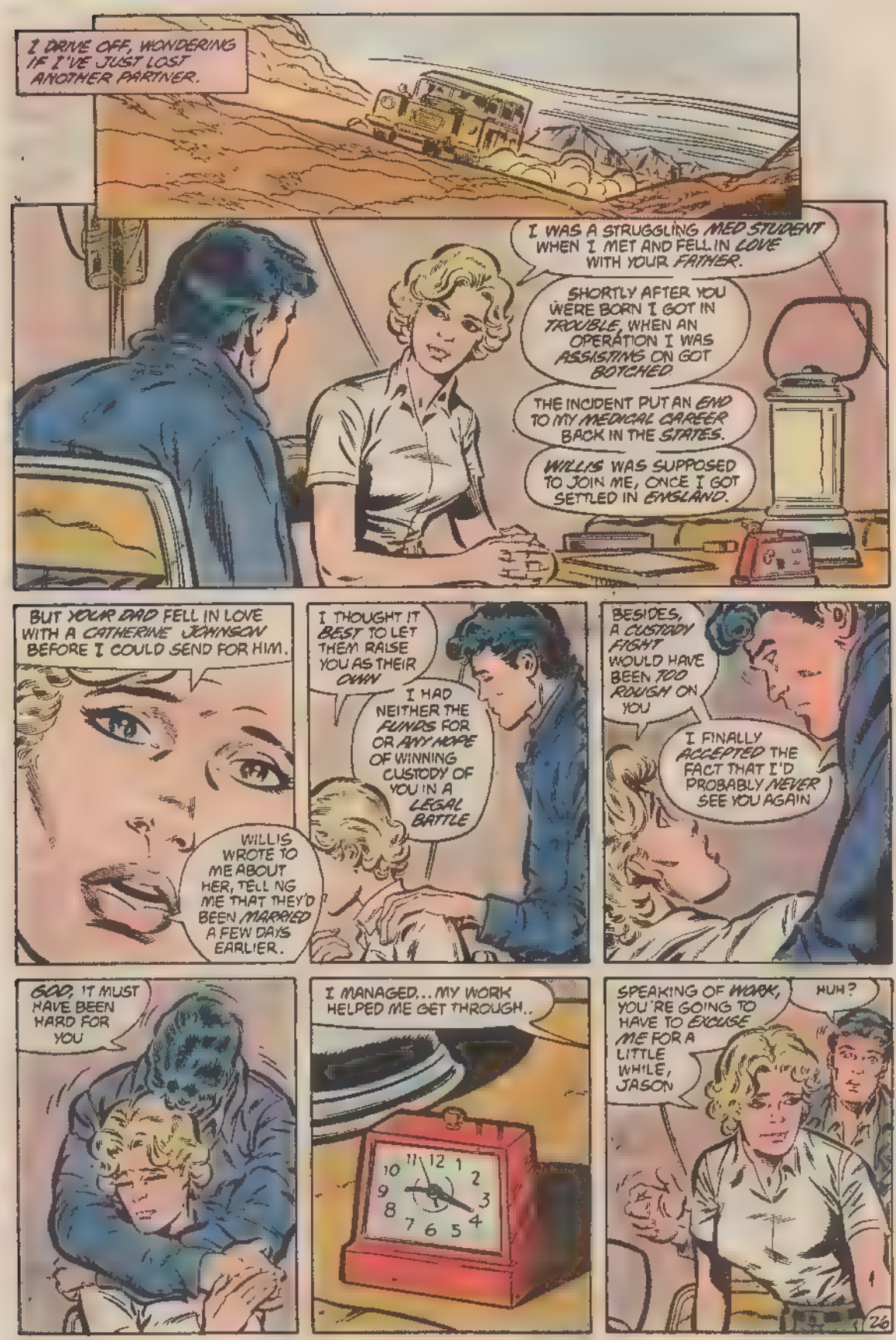
THAT'S THE BIGGEST TROUBLE WITH THIS LINE OF WORK-- YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET THE JOB DONE AND REMAIN A HERO IN YOUR OWN EYES
SHIVA
DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY CHILDREN?
...UGH. . UH. .NEH...
N .N.. NO. .
SHE'S BACK ON HER TOES. LET'S HIT THE ROAD
WE STUCK AROUND UNTIL THE EFFECTS OF THE DRUG WORE OFF
YOU PLANNING ON DRAGGING ME ALONG?
21

NO, UNFORTUNATELY TRAINING TERRORISTS IS NOT AGAINST THE LAW IN THIS COUNTRY.
YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
BUT YOU ARE PLANNING ON LEAVING ME BOUND UP LIKE THIS, AREN'T YOU?
WITH YOUR ABILITIES, YOU'LL HAVE YOURSELF FREE AND BE ON YOUR WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION WITHIN THE HOUR.
WE'LL BE HALFWAY TO BEIRUT BY THEN ONE GO AROUND WITH YOU WAS PLENTY FOR ME, SHIVA.
OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN
TOO BAD..
WOULD SHE HAVE BEEN THE TYPE OF MOTHER YOU'D WANT TO HAVE?
'COURSE NOT
STILL IT'S KIND OF A DISAPPOINTMENT.
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SHEILA HAYWOOD WOULD MAKE A MUCH BETTER CANDIDATE.
YEAH.
SO, LET'S GET OUR TAILS IN GEAR, MAN!
ETHIOPIA, HERE WE COME!


CHAPTER 4
AN ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE CAMP JUST OUTSIDE MAGDOLA. THE MISERY HAS RETURNED.
ONCE AGAIN THE WORLD DIDN'T LISTEN IN TIME. THE SAME MISTAKES WERE REPEATED
STARVATION AND DEATH CAST A LONG SHADOW OVER THIS LAND.
THE REFUGEES FLOCK INTO THE CAMPS BY THE THOUSANDS EACH DAY. IT'S UTTERLY HEARTBREAKING.
WHEN I RETURN TO GOTHAM, I'LL SEND OUT ANOTHER CHECK TO HELP THE EFFORT AND TRY TO FORGET WHAT I'VE SEEN HERE.
I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH EVEN BRUCE WAYNE -- AND BATMAN -- CAN DO.

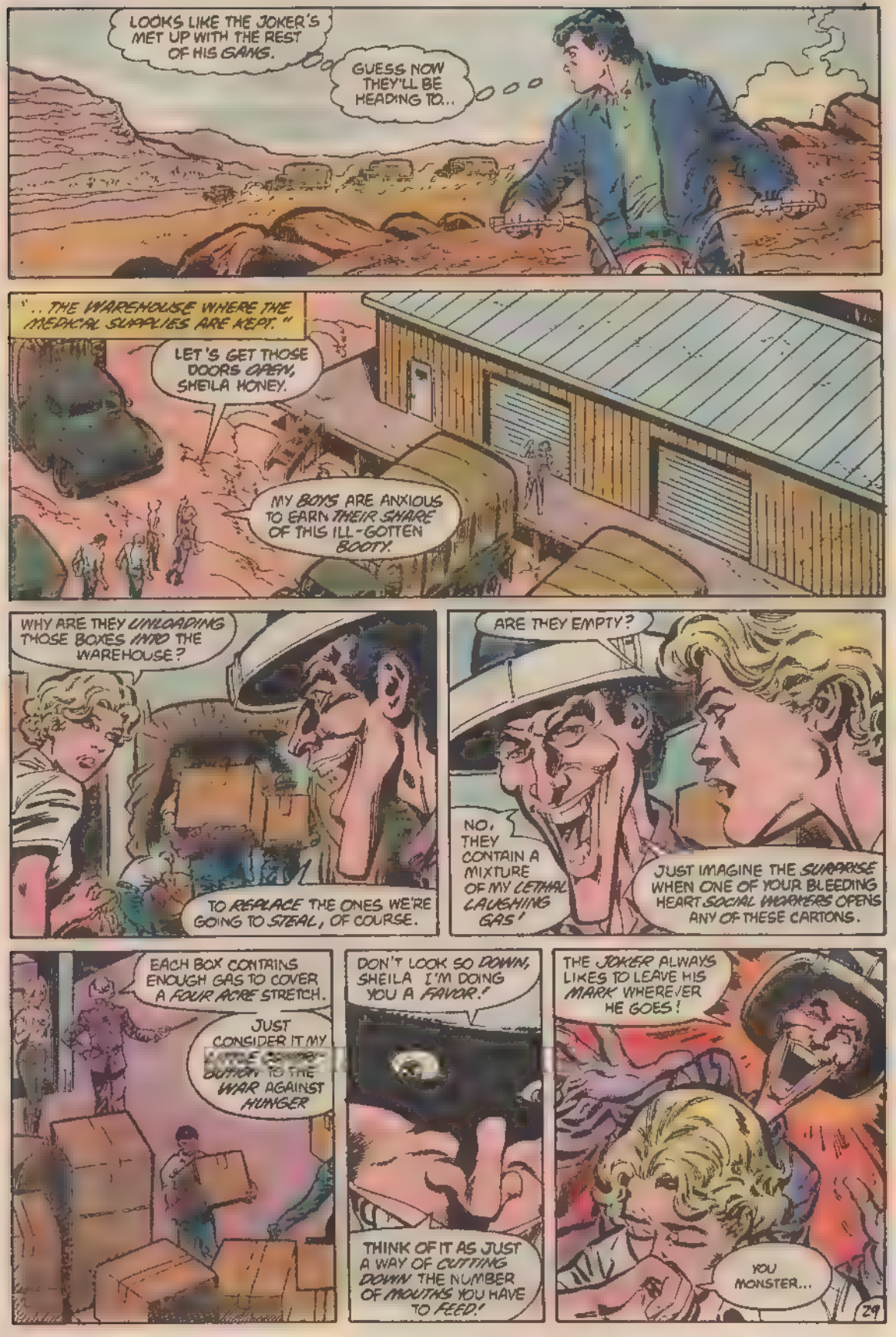
THESE GRIM SURROUNDINGS MOMENTARILY CAUSE ME TO FORGET THE REAL REASON WE'RE HERE.
BUT ONE LOOK AT JASON TODD'S FEATURES BRING IT ALL BACK TO ME
WE'VE COME TO FIND HIS REAL MOTHER.
WE HAVE ONE LAST CANDIDATE TO INTERVIEW...
...DR SHEILA MAYWOOD?
YOU'LL FIND HER IN THAT TENT IT'S HER OFFICE.
THANKS.
JASON, WAIT UP!
GUESS I CAN'T FAULT THE LAD'S IMPATIENCE
HOW OFTEN, IN LIFE, DO YOU GET TO MEET YOUR OWN MOTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME?

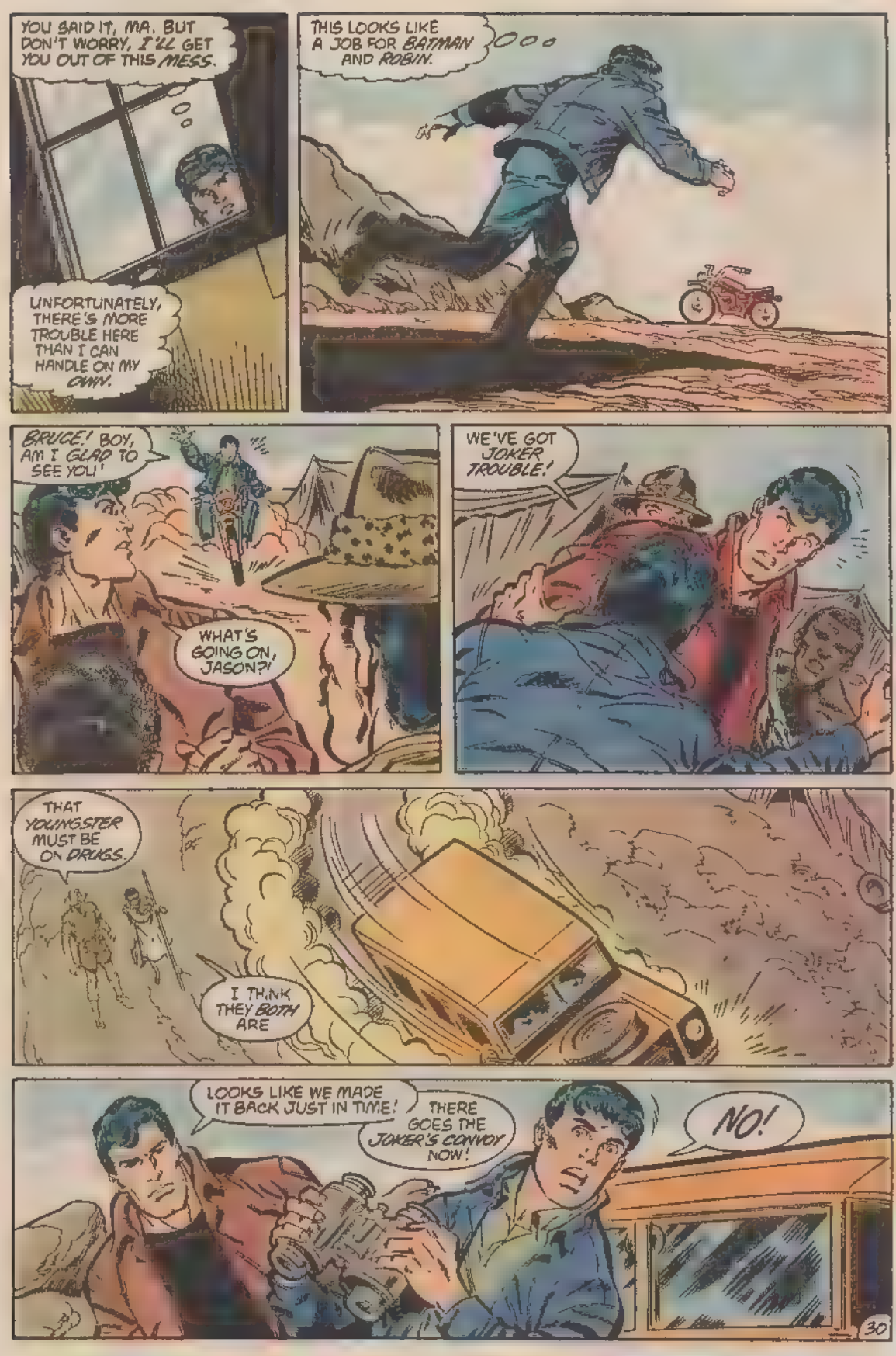
DR. HAYWOOD, EXCUSE ME. I'M
I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM MY DAYS IN GOTHAM
YOU'RE BRUCE WAYNE, THE MILLIONAIRE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AS SOON AS I SEE HER, I KNOW WE'VE HIT PAY-DIRT. JASON'S GOT HER EYES.
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A YOUNG FRIEND OF MINE.
HIS NAME'S JASON TODD
TODD?
OH, MY GOD!
MOTHER?
JASON?
MOTHER!
MOTHER!
MOTHER!
I CAN SEE THAT THIS REVELATION HAS FLOORED DR HAYWOOD
IT'S GOING TO TAKE HER SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA OF BEING A MOTHER AGAIN. THE LOOK IN HER EYES IS MY CUE TO EXIT.
THINK I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE, TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
I'LL STOP BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR PLANS ARE, JASON
25

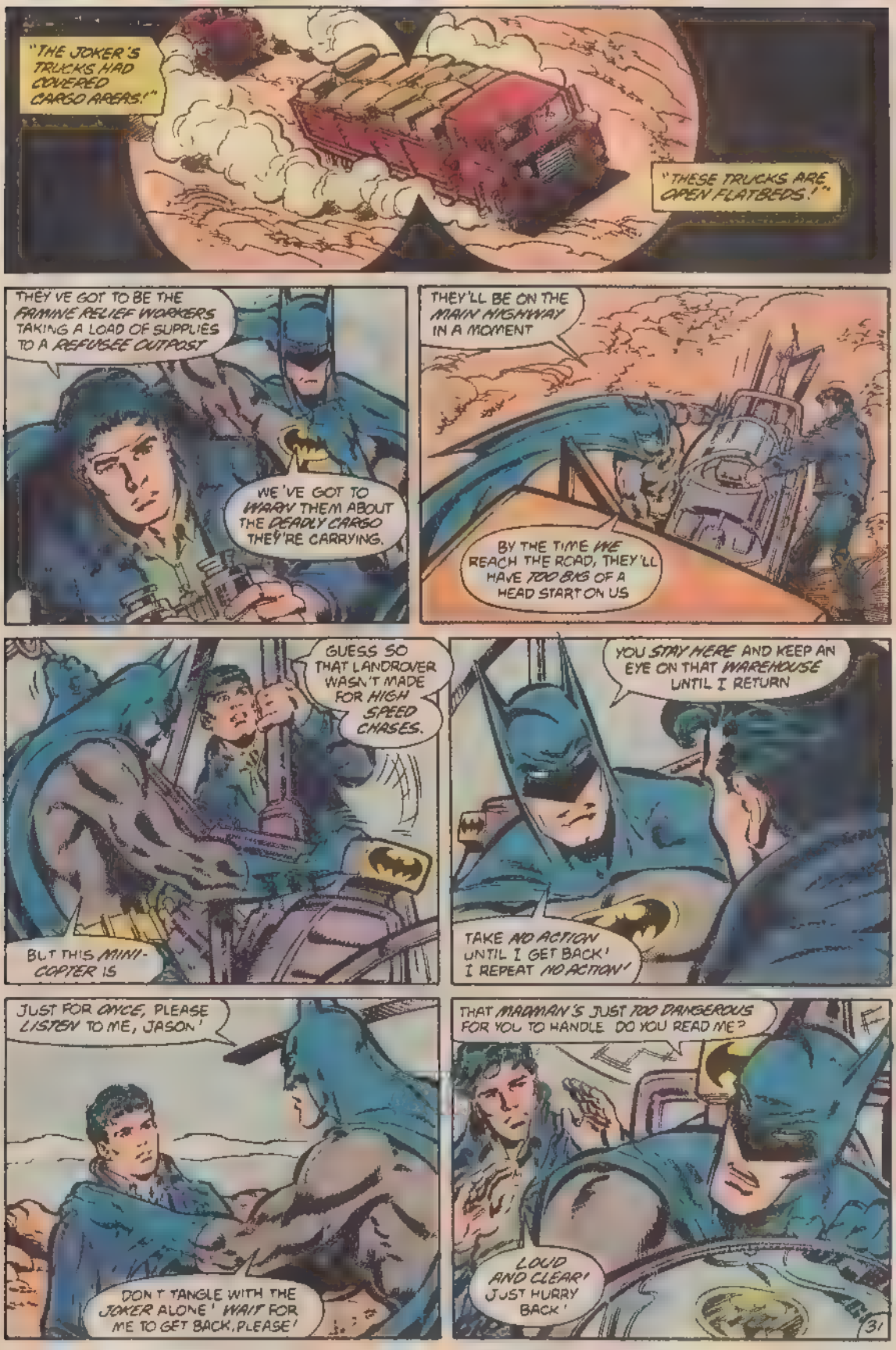

I DRIVE OFF, WONDERING IF I'VE JUST LOST ANOTHER PARTNER.
I WAS A STRUGGLING MED STUDENT WHEN I MET AND FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR FATHER.
SHORTLY AFTER YOU WERE BORN I GOT IN TROUBLE, WHEN AN OPERATION I WAS ASSISTING ON GOT BOTCHED.
THE INCIDENT PUT AN END TO MY MEDICAL CAREER BACK IN THE STATES.
WILLIS WAS SUPPOSED TO JOIN ME, ONCE I GOT SETTLED IN ENGLAND.
BUT YOUR DAD FELL IN LOVE WITH A CATHERINE JOHNSON BEFORE I COULD SEND FOR HIM.
WILLIS WROTE TO ME ABOUT HER, TELLING ME THAT THEY'D BEEN MARRIED A FEW DAYS EARLIER.
I THOUGHT IT BEST TO LET THEM RAISE YOU AS THEIR OWN
I HAD NEITHER THE FUNDS FOR OR ANY HOPE OF WINNING CUSTODY OF YOU IN A LEGAL BATTLE
BESIDES, A CUSTODY FIGHT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO ROUGH ON YOU
I FINALLY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I'D PROBABLY NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN
GOD, IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU
I MANAGED... MY WORK HELPED ME GET THROUGH..
SPEAKING OF WORK, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE, JASON
HUH?
26

IT'S CAMP BUSINESS I CAN'T GET OUT OF, JASON.
WAIT OUTSIDE. MAYBE YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FOOD DISPERSAL. I'LL BE DONE IN A HOUR OR SO
OKAY.
SO THAT'S THE BUSINESS THAT COULDN'T WAIT.
I WONDER WHO..
HOLY COW!
THE JOKER... GOING INTO MOM'S TENT!
WHAT IS HE UP TO?!
A SITUATION LIKE THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE EAVESDROPPING.
HOPE MOM UNDERSTANDS, I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR HER OWN GOOD.
IS EVERYTHING IN ORDER, MY DEAR?

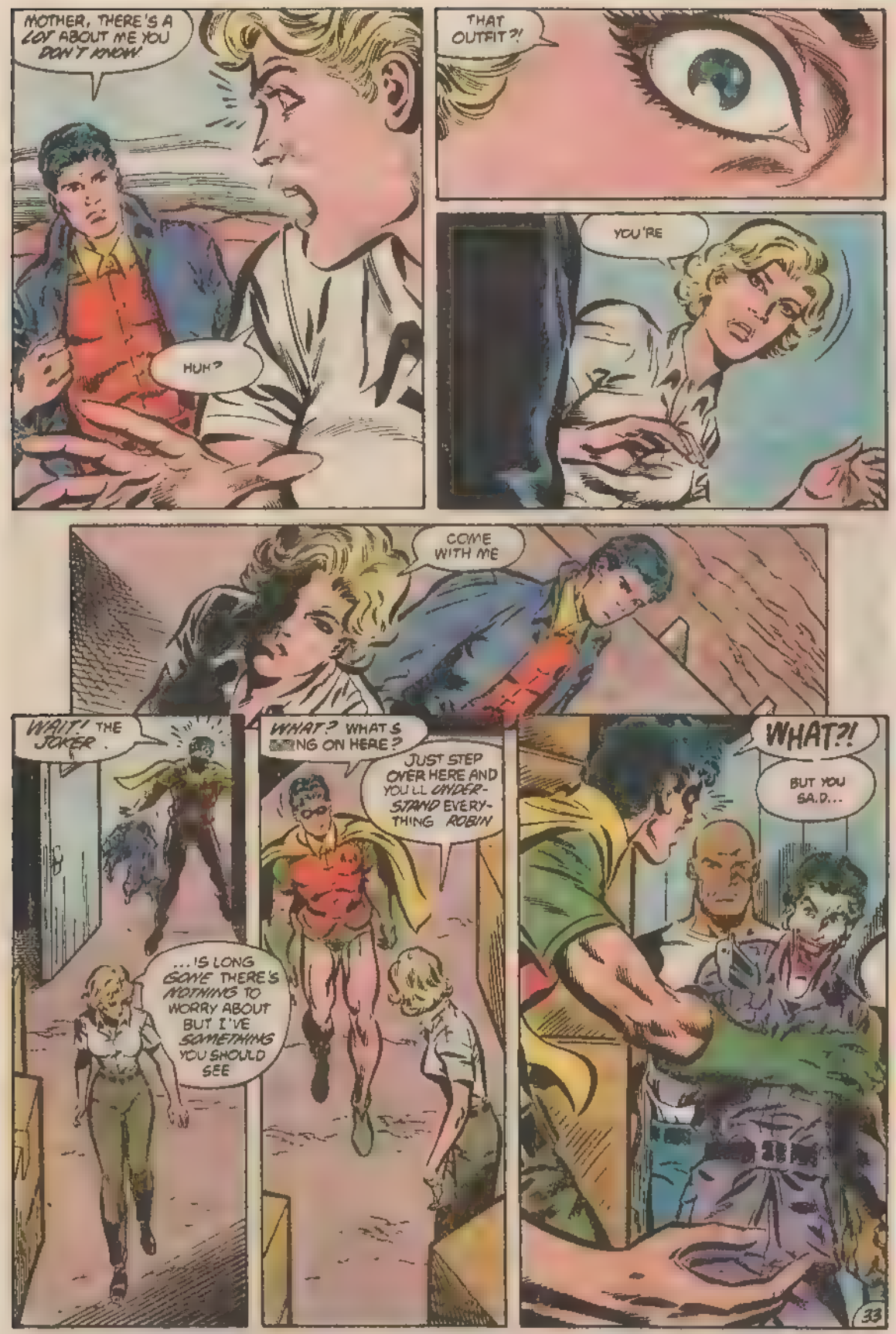
YES, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY COVERING THIS UP
ALL I CARE ABOUT IS GETTING MY HANDS ON THAT SIX TRUCK-LOADS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES
BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU SCREW TH S UP, YOUR SUPERIORS WILL LEARN OF THE MEDICAL TROUBLE WHICH DROVE YOU TO THIS RATHOLE
THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE ARE ST L RATHER INTERESTED IN WHO PERFORMED THAT SLOPPY OPERATION ON THAT POOR DEAD TEENAGER
HOW YOU ARRANGE IT IS YOUR PROBLEM, SWEETIE
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD THING GOING FOR YOU HERE AS CHIEF DISBURSER OF ALL MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN THE AREA
DON'T MESS IT UP!
SHALL WE GO TO YOUR WAREHOUSE, THEN?
MY DRIVERS ARE AWAITING OUR ARRIVAL.
THE JOKER BLACKMAILING MY MOTHER INTO HELPING HIM ON A HIJACKING! THIS IS TERRIBLE!
WORSE STILL, THEY'RE TAKING OFF IN HIS JEEP!
HOW DO I FOLLOW THEM?
A MOTORCYCLE!!
SOMEONE UPSTAIRS IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
I SAY! THAT'S MY MOTORSCOOTER!!
COME BACK HERE!!


LOOKS LIKE THE JOKER'S MET UP WITH THE REST OF HIS GANG.
GUESS NOW THEY'LL BE HEADING TO..
"..THE WAREHOUSE WHERE THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE KEPT."
LET'S GET THOSE DOORS OPEN, SHEILA HONEY.
MY BOYS ARE ANXIOUS TO EARN THEIR SHARE OF THIS ILL-GOTTEN BOOTY.
WHY ARE THEY UNLOADING THOSE BOXES INTO THE WAREHOUSE?
TO REPLACE THE ONES WE'RE GOING TO STEAL, OF COURSE.
ARE THEY EMPTY?
NO, THEY CONTAIN A MIXTURE OF MY LETHAL LAUGHING GAS!
JUST IMAGINE THE SURPRISE WHEN ONE OF YOUR BLEEDING HEART SOCIAL WORKERS OPENS ANY OF THESE CARTONS.
EACH BOX CONTAINS ENOUGH GAS TO COVER A FOUR ACRE STRETCH.
JUST CONSIDER IT MY LITTLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR AGAINST HUNGER
DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, SHEILA I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR!
THINK OF IT AS JUST A WAY OF CUTTING DOWN THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS YOU HAVE TO FEED!
THE JOKER ALWAYS LIKES TO LEAVE HIS MARK WHEREVER HE GOES!
YOU MONSTER...


YOU SAID IT, MA. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S MORE TROUBLE HERE THAN I CAN HANDLE ON MY OWN.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN.
BRUCE! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHAT'S GOING ON, JASON?!
WE'VE GOT JOKER TROUBLE!
THAT YOUNGSTER MUST BE ON DRUGS.
I THINK THEY BOTH ARE
LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT BACK JUST IN TIME!
THERE GOES THE JOKER'S CONVOY NOW!
NO!
30


"THE JOKER'S TRUCKS HAD COVERED CARGO AREAS!"
"THESE TRUCKS ARE OPEN FLATBEDS!"
THEY'VE GOT TO BE THE FAMINE RELIEF WORKERS TAKING A LOAD OF SUPPLIES TO A REFUGEE OUTPOST
WE'VE GOT TO WARN THEM ABOUT THE DEADLY CARGO THEY'RE CARRYING.
THEY'LL BE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY IN A MOMENT
BY THE TIME WE REACH THE ROAD, THEY'LL HAVE TOO BIG OF A HEAD START ON US
GUESS SO THAT LANDROVER WASN'T MADE FOR HIGH SPEED CHASES.
BUT THIS MINI-COPTER IS
YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON THAT WAREHOUSE UNTIL I RETURN
TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL I GET BACK! I REPEAT NO ACTION!
JUST FOR ONCE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, JASON!
DON'T TANGLE WITH THE JOKER ALONE! WAIT FOR ME TO GET BACK, PLEASE!
THAT MADMAN'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO HANDLE DO YOU READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR! JUST HURRY BACK!
31

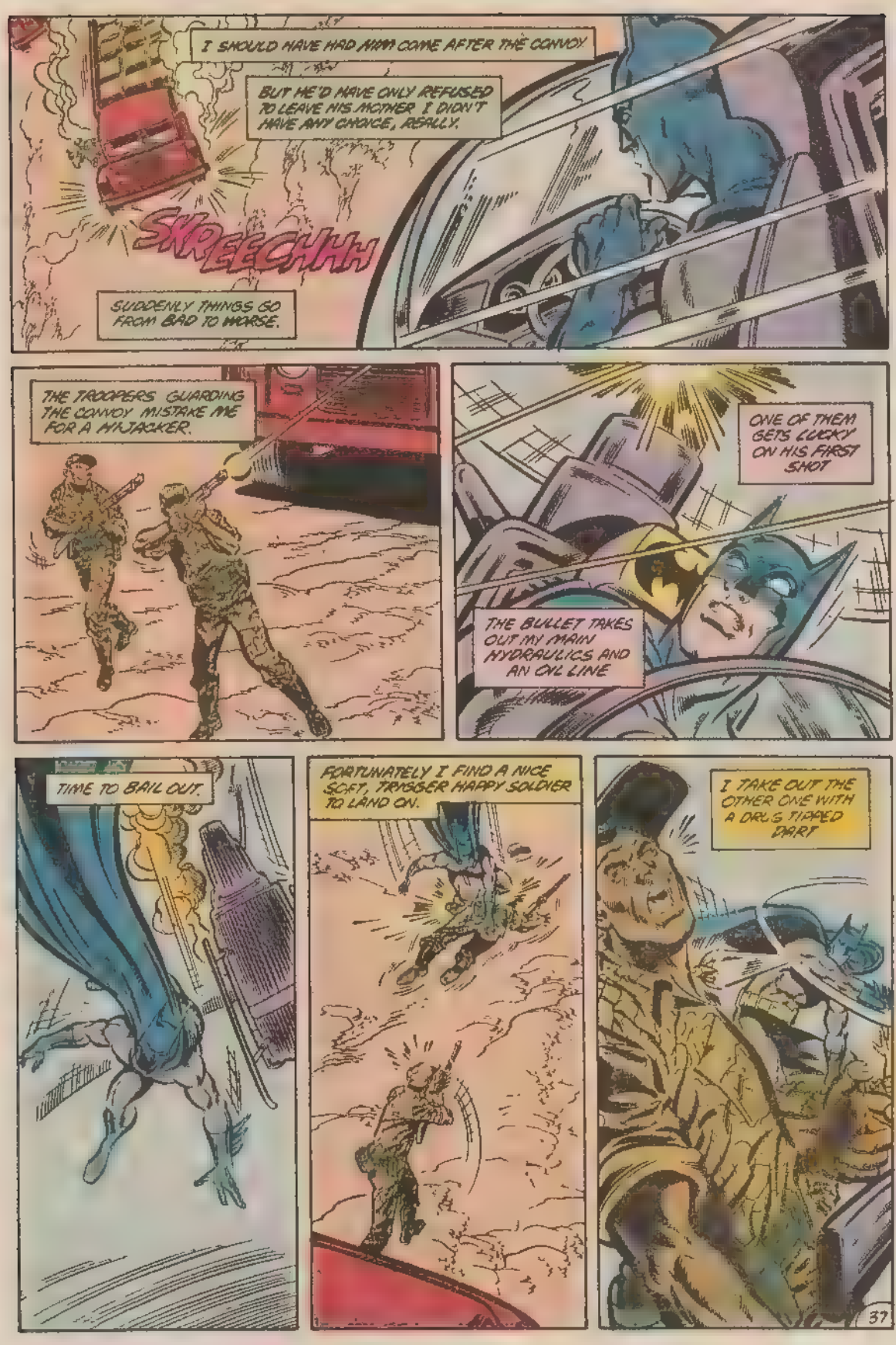
SORRY, BRUCE
BUT THAT'S MY MOTHER IN THERE WITH THAT LUNATIC
MOM
JASON?!
YOU'VE GOT BIG TROUBLE, MOM I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT THE JOKER... EVERYTHING
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
COME ON, MOM! PLAY STRAIGHT WITH ME!
I CAN HELP YOU!
SURE, TELL ME ABOUT IT


MOTHER, THERE'S A LOT ABOUT ME YOU DON'T KNOW
HUH?
THAT OUTFIT?!
YOU'RE
COME WITH ME
WAIT! THE JOKER.
...IS LONG GONE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT BUT I'VE SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE
WHAT? WHAT'S [illegible]NG ON HERE?
JUST STEP OVER HERE AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ROBIN
WHAT?!
BUT YOU SA.D...
33

I LIED.
YOU SEE, I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU STIRRING UP TROUBLE. I'VE BEEN DIPPING INTO THE MEDICAL FUNDS MYSELF
IF YOU BLOW THE WHISTLE ON THE JOKER, THE ENSUING INVESTIGATION WOULD CERTAINLY UNCOVER MY EMBEZZLING.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, KID. LOOKS LIKE YOU CHOSE THE WRONG PERSON TO TRUST, THIS TIME.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO FOR YEARS.
34

COME NOW, BIRDBOY! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SLEEP ON ME ALREADY, ARE YOU?
THE PARTY'S JUST GOT STARTED!
THEN LET'S BOOGEY!
THAT WASN'T A VERY NICE THING TO DO TO UNCLE JOKER
YOU'VE BEEN A BAD BOY.
YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SEVERE SPANKING, YOUNG MAN
BUT LET ME TELL YOU RIGHT FROM THE START

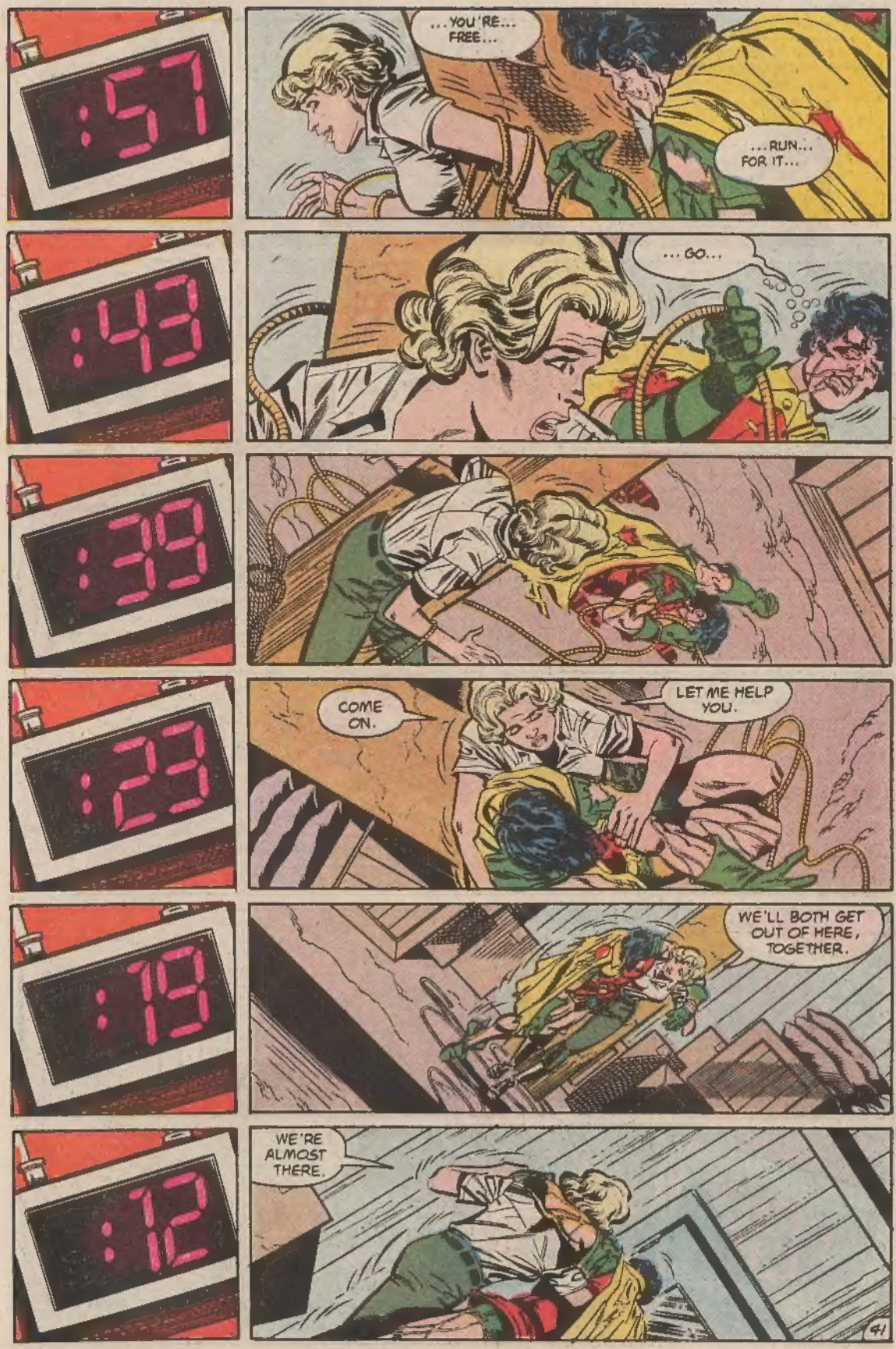
...THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU A LOT MORE THAN IT DOES ME
I'M PUSHING THE MINI-COPTER TO THE LIMIT.
I'M ALREADY REGRETTING LEAVING JASON BEHIND.
SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE ME IS SCREAMING THAT
MOVE.
36

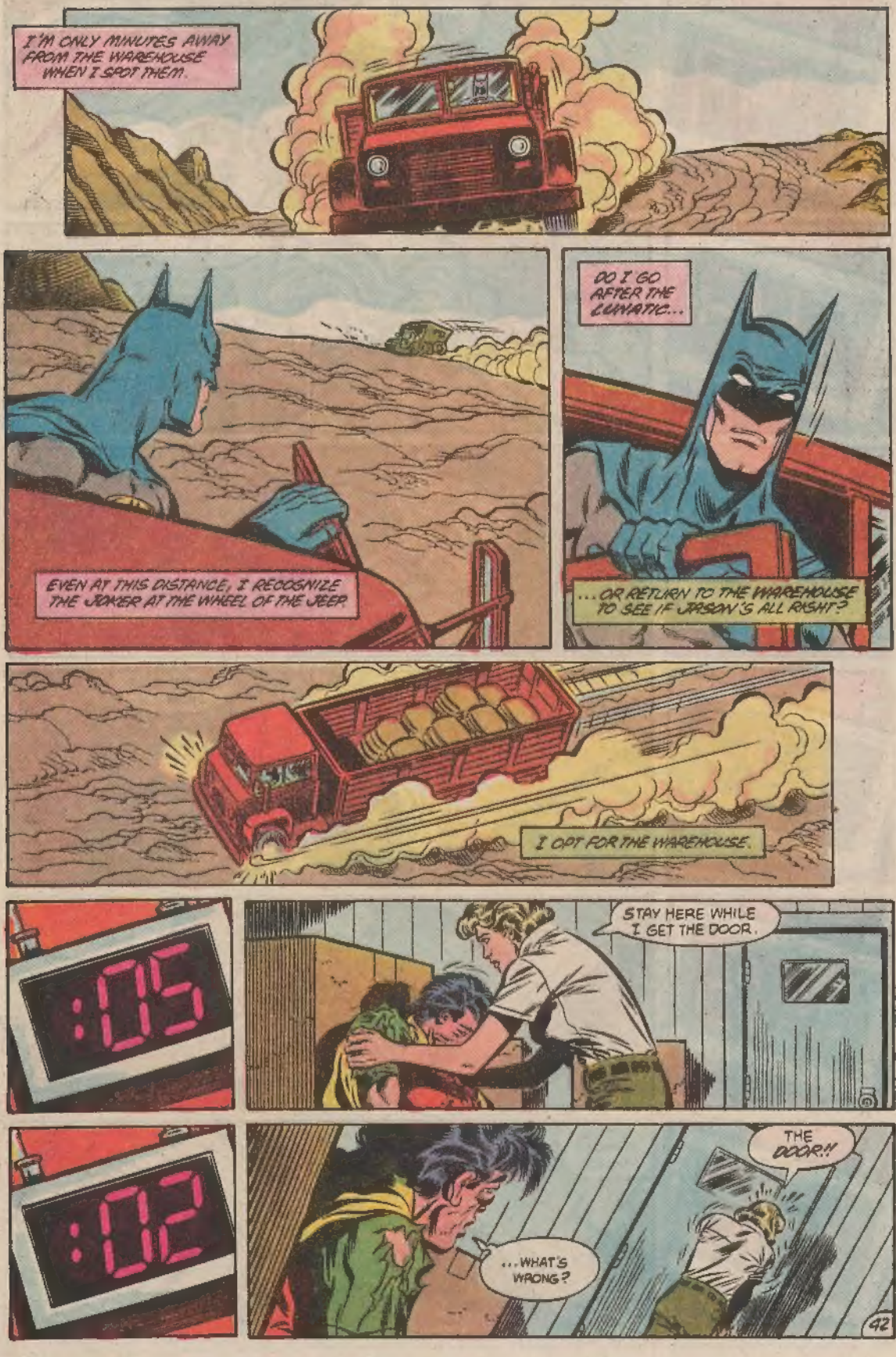

I SHOULD HAVE HAD HIM COME AFTER THE CONVOY.
BUT HE'D HAVE ONLY REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS MOTHER. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, REALLY.
SKREECHHH
SUDDENLY THINGS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE.
THE TROOPERS GUARDING THE CONVOY MISTAKE ME FOR A HIJACKER.
ONE OF THEM GETS LUCKY ON HIS FIRST SHOT
THE BULLET TAKES OUT MY MAIN HYDRAULICS AND AN OIL LINE
TIME TO BAIL OUT.
FORTUNATELY I FIND A NICE SOFT, TRIGGER HAPPY SOLDIER TO LAND ON.
I TAKE OUT THE OTHER ONE WITH A DRUG TIPPED DART

YOU'RE THE BATMAN, AREN'T YOU?
AND YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER
I EXPLAIN THE SITUATION IN RECORD TIME
JUST UNLOAD THE BOXES AND LEAVE THEM FOR THE ARMY TO DEAL WITH
I NEED TO BORROW ONE OF YOUR TRUCKS RIGHT AWAY.
DAMN THE LOSS OF THAT COPTER
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME AT LEAST TWENTY MINUTES TO GET BACK TO THE WAREHOUSE IN THIS HEAP
I PRAY I'LL BE IN TIME.
PLEASE, JASON, WAIT FOR ME
MY! BUT THAT WAS FUN!
KIND OF MESSY THOUGH
BUT WHAT'S BATMAN GOING TO DO WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HIS LITTLE FRIEND?
HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT..
HE'S A VENGEFUL ONE, THAT BATMAN.
THIS COULD GET A BIT STICKY
38

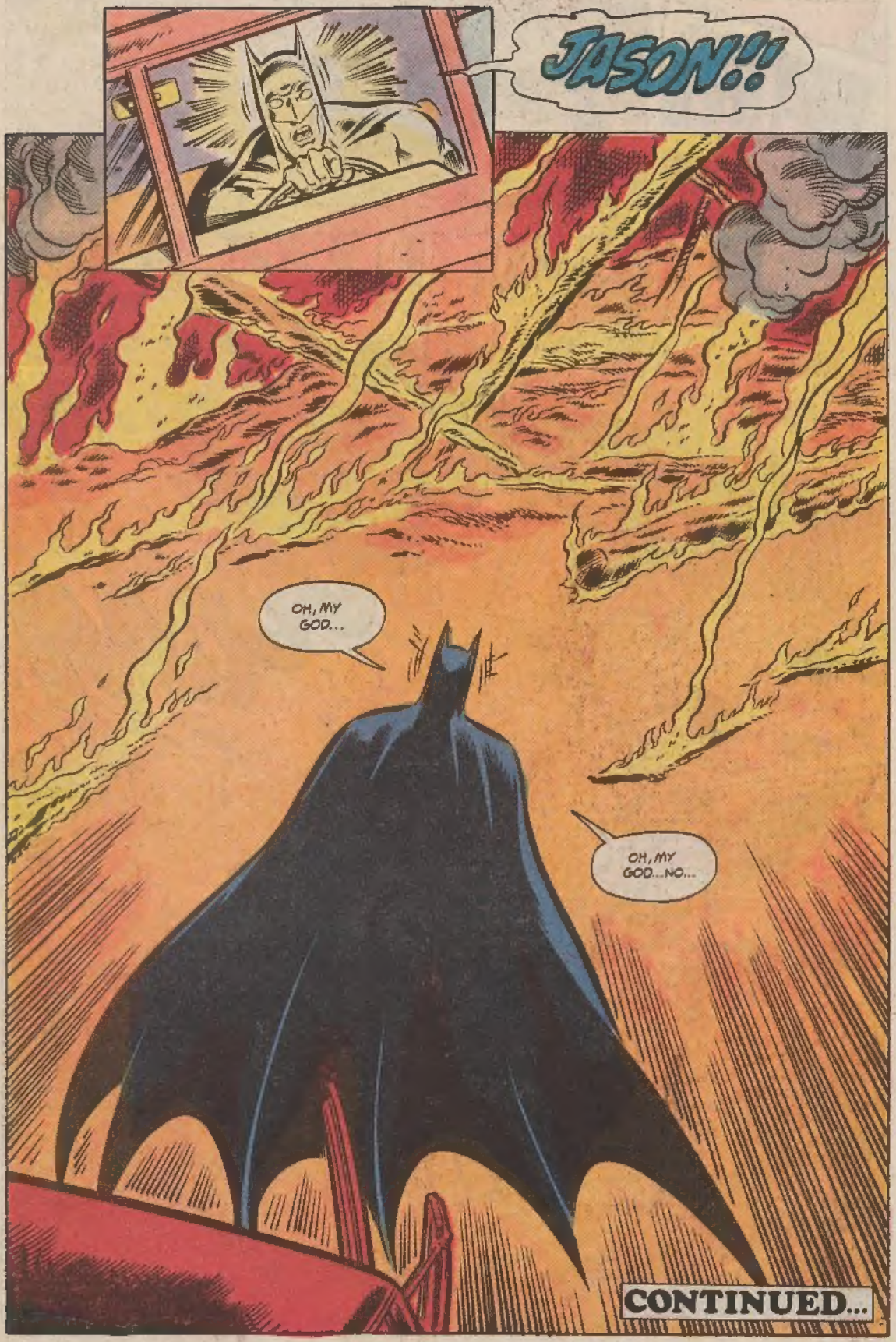
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF I DIDN'T LEAVE BEHIND ANY EVIDENCE OF MY PRESENCE
WHAT THE BATMAN DOESN'T KNOW CAN'T HURT ME!
TOO BAD YOU HAD TO WITNESS THIS LITTLE DISPLAY OF MY TEMPER, SHEILA
IT WON'T WORK, JOKER! THEY'LL KNOW IT'S YOU FROM THE SLAUGHTERED REFUGEES!
PERHAPS THE AUTHORITIES WILL FIGURE THEIR DEATHS WERE CAUSED BY SOMETHING DISAGREEABLE THAT THEY ATE.
DOESN'T MATTER. THERE WON'T BE ANY DIRECT EVIDENCE CONNECTING ME TO THE BIRDBOY'S DEATH.
THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING ASPECTS OF THE BATMAN
THE RIGHTEOUS BOOB INSISTS ON SOLID EVIDENCE BEFORE GOING NOVA
WHAT NOW, BOSS?
WE JUST LEAVE LOVELY SHEILA TIED NEXT TO THAT LOVELY BOMB
ISN'T IT FORTUNATE THAT I NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT BRINGING ALONG AT LEAST ONE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE
YOU'VE GOT TEN MINUTES I'LL ENJOY THE THOUGHT OF YOU COUNTING EVERY SECOND OF THEM. TA TA!
JOKER, NO!
YOU CAN'T, YOU...
THIS ISN'T FAIR, JOKER.
I PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH YOU

NOOOOOO.
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS
OOOOOOMIH..
JASON!!
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!!
THE BOMB, JASON!
DEACTI-VATE IT!
.. IN NO SHAPE TO HANDLE .. THAT
GOTTA GET YOU . OUTTA HERE.
...I'LL SAVE YOU, MOM.
40


:57
...YOU'RE... FREE...
...RUN... FOR IT...
:43
...GO...
:39
:23
COME ON.
LET ME HELP YOU.
:19
WE'LL BOTH GET OUT OF HERE, TOGETHER.
:12
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
41


I'M ONLY MINUTES AWAY FROM THE WAREHOUSE WHEN I SPOT THEM.
EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE, I RECOGNIZE THE JOKER AT THE WHEEL OF THE JEEP.
DO I GO AFTER THE LUNATIC...
...OR RETURN TO THE WAREHOUSE TO SEE IF JASON'S ALL RIGHT?
I OPT FOR THE WAREHOUSE.
:05
STAY HERE WHILE I GET THE DOOR.
:02
...WHAT'S WRONG?
THE DOOR!!
42

:01
IT'S LOCKED!
THE JOKER LOCKED US IN HERE!
KA-THOOOOOM
43


JASON!!
OH, MY GOD...
OH, MY GOD...NO...
CONTINUED...